FACT SHEET

P.O. Box 6015, 100 N. Senate Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46206-6015
(800) 451-6027
http://www.state.in.us/idem

SANITARY SETBACK MANAGEMENT FOR WELLHEAD PROTECTION

Section 8 of the Indiana Wellhead Protection Rule, 327 IAC 8-4., states that to have Phase I of a WHPP approved by the department, a community public water supply system (CPWSS) must submit, among other things, AA plan to manage the sanitary setback area that includes the following:

(i) Measures for the management of the area, consistent with the requirements of 327 IAC 8-3.

(ii) Measures to prohibit the storage and mixing of chemicals, other than:

(AA) those used for drinking water treatment; or

(BB) pesticides that are regulated by the pesticide review board through IC 15-3-3.5 and IC 15-3-3.6.

(iii) Provisions to secure the wellhead to prevent unauthorized access.

(iv) Guidelines that employ best management practices for transportation routes within the sanitary setback area.

Subsequent to March 28, 1997, the effective date of the Indiana Wellhead Protection Rule, 327 IAC 8-3, the rule which establishes technical standards for the design and construction of new or modified public water supply system production wells, was revised. The revisions include specific requirements for establishing and managing a sanitary setback or isolation area, as it is called in the revisions.

Section 9 of 327 IAC 8-3.4 establishes a standard isolation radius of 200 feet for community public water supply systems that do not provide automatic disinfection. Generally, this 200 foot radius is the sanitary setback area which a system must plan to manage in their wellhead protection plan.

Ideally, as is required for new wells, a supplier of water to a public water system shall own or control the isolation area/sanitary setback by recorded deed, easement, or long term lease. However, IDEM understands that for many systems with wells constructed or modified prior to the effective date of the Public Water Supply Wells Rule, ownership or control of the isolation area does not exist. IDEM recommends that these systems try to acquire the isolation area through purchase, lease, easements, or deed restrictions to enable more effective management of the isolation area. In the absence of ownership or control of the area, systems must plan to inform and educate those that do own or control the isolation area about chemical management appropriate to protect the water supply.

Following are some categorized suggestions for managing the isolation area/sanitary setback.

The mixing and storing of chemicals other than drinking water treatment chemicals and pesticides should be strictly prohibited when possible. When prohibition is not possible, management strategies for the mixing and storing of chemicals, including drinking water treatment chemicals and pesticides, within the isolation area include:

- Refraining from mixing and storing of chemicals and pesticides within the isolation area.
- Emphasizing the importance of following all label requirements for the use of pesticides.
- Providing secondary containment for chemicals and pesticides stored within the isolation area.

Provisions to secure the wellhead to prevent unauthorized access include:

- Keeping well house and/or property gates locked with keys stored in a separate, secure area.
- Pad locking well caps.
- Remaining vigilant over on-site wells, ensuring access is limited to system personnel.

Management strategies for transportation routes within the isolation area include:

- Using curbs and gutters to direct the runoff from paved areas away from wells.
- Posting signs indicating that the route is near wells.
- Using speed limits and speed bumps to slow traffic on the route to help prevent accidents on the route.
- Reducing the use of deicer compounds on the route.
- Grading around wells to direct runoff away from wells.